

friends

pacific yearly meeting
of friends

JUNE — 1954

bulletin

TO THE FRIENDS OF SERI LAND

In April LEO SANDOVAL wrote a letter from Desemboque, Sonora, Mexico, which was sent on to us by RANDOLPH JENKS (2146 East 4th St., Tucson, Arizona). We'd like to share parts of it with you, and also some comments by NORMAN KREKLER and by ED DUCKLES of the Friends Service Committee of Mexico (Campeche Num. 262, Colonia Hipodromo, Mexico 11, D. F.).

"March 3rd marked the second year in Desemboque and our work with the Seri tribe. I am still not sorry I tackled the job. Our thanks go to the A.F.S.C. in general, Ed Duckles, Herberto Sein, Norman Krekler and all of you who often remember us and our Seri friends.

"Everybody, American and Mexican, who visits our school is impressed with the building job. The school room is painted light blue and there is plenty of blackboard space. The front windows look toward the Island and Punta Tepopa. The sea is indeed beautiful. The outside walls of the school and teacher's house are white and hanging on the porch is a bronze bell. The woodwork of doors and windows is maroon. Before next June we will have the sidewalk around the school and the flagpole installed permanently . . .

"The kids in school are more relaxed nowadays, especially the third graders. Some like history and geography quite well, and these help me keep the noisy ones quiet in order to hear all about Indians of pre-Cortes history. The boys like arithmetic since they need it for their fish trade. The girls shun it!

"The Chevrolet truck which Lynn Warren brought last June is still in wonderful condition. Because of the cold days and nights my students and I go to Pozo Coyote and load the truck with plenty of wood. Many thanks to all of you who made the purchase of this truck possible.

"Pasadena keeps us well supplied with medicine and we are able to help Seris and Mexicans alike. If things work out, we may start a dispensary in the fall with enough space for two or three beds.

"Pat Jenks and students from the University of Arizona and Sonora came during the holidays, to put up the fence for the school garden and we already have watermelons, fifteen grapevines and some vegetables. By next year we hope to have some wheat grown around the windmill land. John Peckham and Amado Ulloa installed the 500 liter tank next to the windmill.

"As I write Masha (Tomas) is working on placing the looms which Asuntos Indigenas sent. She hopes the girls will turn out two or three

shawls at the end of the school year. We also have two nice sewing machines some friends gave for the project.

"As time goes on I meet more and more people who express surprise and approval of the work of the Society of Friends. A truck driver for one of the fish traders asked me all about the Friends and he thought he would like to belong to the group.

"I have a request to make. Can anybody in the States interest other friends so that the Esquela Rural de los Seris can have a piano? It does not have to be here tomorrow or next year—it is just another of my education criterions.—LEO SANDOVAL."

ED DUCKLES adds: "As you know, Leo and Tomas have taken on this very difficult assignment for a five-year period . . . In September we will be sending a new Service Committee unit to assist in the construction of a two-room building which will serve as a health dispensary and a sewing and weaving workshop. We would like to provide Leo and the Seris right away with some chickens, ducks and a goat or two so they can begin to improve their diet in this way. The total budget to carry on this work for a year is only fifteen hundred dollars."

Last fall NORMAN KREKLER, for over a year a member of the project team, had written: "Remember the boy who had T.B.? The doctor in Hermosillo says he is well and can work and go to school. This is his first year in school, but his brother and aunt who were in school last year have taught him at home so Leo says he will be able to enter the third grade right off! After lying in bed all year he now wants to work helping us all of the time and it keeps us busy finding light jobs for him that won't be too hard and cause a relapse."

Speaking of the inauguration of the school, with its program for a number of visitors, he says: "I have noticed more community spirit around the town than ever before. Leo had everyone, both Seri and Mexican, working the last few days to finish plastering and painting . . . Every one was very favorably impressed with the Seris in Desemboque. The visitors had seen a few Seris begging and had the usual impression of them that most of Sonora has. Then they saw these in Desemboque clean and dressed up for the Fiesta and saying 'Buenas Tardes' and 'Gracias' and not begging. The Seri women were in charge of preparing and distributing the food and there were no fights and arguments

like there used to be. They felt they had a part, and they left an impression of a proud and noble people."

ARRANGEMENTS FOR YEARLY MEETING

The Committee on Arrangements, ETHEL M. MILLER, chairman, makes this report:

As previously announced, Yearly Meeting will be held at Glen Dawn Baptist Camp, Auburn, Washington, August 12 to 15. The first session will be Thursday evening. Dinner will be served at the camp that night. The last meal served will be Sunday noon.

Glen Dawn is between Tacoma and Seattle, three miles off Highway 99. There is half-hourly bus service from these points. Transportation will be arranged from the Highway to the camp for any who inform the registrar.

For accommodations in cabins, the charges will be:

\$10 for adults

\$8 for children, 5-16 years of age

Children under 5 free

This includes meals from dinner, Aug. 12, to lunch Sunday, August 15.

Camping facilities are available. There are two stoves, but campers must furnish all other equipment. Charges are 50c per night for each person over 3 years of age. Individual meals are served in the dining room as follows:

Breakfast: for adults, 50c;

for children 3 to 12, 50c.

Lunch: for adults, 75c; for children 38c

Dinner: for adults, \$1; for children 50c.

Children under 3, free

Registration

This year a registration fee of \$2 must accompany the registration of each adult. Deadline for registration for the entire period is August 3. There can be no refunds after that time. Please note this, as it is a change from our procedure in the past. A registration blank will be sent you by July 15. With the receipt for registration will be sent a map and any other instructions needed.

Special Regulations

Glen Dawn Baptist Camp requests guests to refrain from smoking on the grounds. This is a safety measure as well as a testimony. No sports (swimming, ball games, etc.) are allowed on Sunday. There will be plenty of other activities to occupy the children until the end of the session that day.

People coming in for individual meals must notify the cooks at least three hours beforehand.

Interim Committee

The Interim Committee will be meeting Thursday morning at the camp. Arrangements have been made for members and their families

to stay at the camp Wednesday night without extra charge. They will provide their own meals, either on the camp stoves or in nearby eating places until Thursday noon, when a lunch will be served at the regular rates.

Registrar

The registrar is HERTA ATKINSON,
1522 9th Ave., West
Seattle 99, Washington.

PACIFIC OAKS SCHOLARSHIP

Pacific Oaks Friends School offers a scholarship for graduate study in Nursery Education in cooperation with Occidental College, Los Angeles. This grant, for the year 1954-1955, is available for a student who holds a bachelor's degree and who has majored in education, sociology, psychology or home economics. The amount of the grant is \$800 and the holder will study for a full year in the field of nursery education under the guidance of the Education Department of Occidental College and the Teacher Education Division of Pacific Oaks Friends School, taking some work at each institution. Applications should be made to the Director, Teacher Education Division, Pacific Oaks School, 714 W. California St., Pasadena 2, Calif.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

An all-day conference on religious education was held May 2, in the Orange Grove Meeting House, Pasadena, Calif. Friends from Santa Monica, San Fernando, La Jolla, Claremont, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Whittier, and Pasadena participated. The discussions ranged from suitable methods of saying grace in the home to the problems of finding enough—and the right—teachers for First-day School and what to do with a small group of children of varied ages. A full mimeographed report was sent to attenders; the Bulletin can hope only to bring to its readers a few points of interest. For further information, we suggest you write to LOIS BAILEY, 13864 Sayre St., San Fernando, Calif., who is chairman of the Education Committee of the Yearly Meeting.

We parents, the conference concluded, "are the education of our children." The attitudes and actions in the home give the child his first idea, or atmosphere of religion, even if the child is not aware of this. Since we are not saints, we need the discipline and help of a regular period of worship in the home. Varied types of home worship, including grace before meals, help give the child an appreciation of and ease with situations he may meet elsewhere—for instance, silence, reading, spoken prayer and song. We can all take opportunities to answer significant questions or deal with situations *when they arise*, with care and attention, and make of them true religious periods.

We should give our children the Quaker tradition, but also a sense of the roots of Christianity, and of all religions, as they can understand. It is unwise to urge meaningless words on a child, particularly if we, as adults, are not convinced of the truth of such words. A good many of us, as convinced Friends, have turned out rather different religiously from what our parents intended, and we may well remember the tendency of children to revolt against what they are taught in religion. We must be careful of narrowness and remember that the reaction to everyday occurrences is what counts in a child's impression of a religious atmosphere, and that early impressions may bear fruit much later.

In the discussion of specific First-day School problems, a class at Orange Grove for 4th, 5th and 6th graders was mentioned. Under the leadership of

RALPH PINNEY, (437 W. Longden, Arcadia, Calif.), the group studied the life of St. Francis of Assisi over a long period of time. This biographical approach proved successful because a variety of methods could be used: field trips to Franciscan monasteries, nature study, historical research and so on. Very important at this level, as with teen-agers, Ralph Pinney pointed out, is student participation in planning their course of study. Sunday should be a day of religious fellowship for the children, as it is for adults. Cooperation with near-by churches was discussed and techniques for making the children feel really a part of the fellowship of the Meeting.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Palo Alto Monthly Meeting, writes MARJORIE WEBER (1262 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, Calif.), has signed a request for property tax exemption but declined to sign the non-disloyalty oath. Instead they have submitted a statement which says: "From its inception 300 years ago, the Religious Society of Friends has opposed the use of force or violence between individuals or nations. Because we believe in conciliation, based on respect and love for all people, it is impossible for us to advocate the overthrow of any government by force or violence. The loyalty of a religious organization to our Government can not be achieved or tested by special declarations, affirmations or oaths. While as individuals we may differ in an exact interpretation of the Christian teachings, we are agreed that our first allegiance is to God. And if this conflicts with any compulsion of the State we serve our country best by remaining true to our higher loyalty."

* * *

A series of sonnets by PEGGY CHURCH (Box 63, Ranchos de Taos, N. M.) will be printed in an early fall number of *Inward Life*, the quarterly magazine of the Friends' Conference on Religion and Psychology. Since only a limited number of copies of the magazine are printed, the editor, Elinor Kotschnig, would appreciate knowing if any Friends from this region would like to order copies. The price will be about 35c. If any one is interested, he can drop a card to Peggy Church and she will forward the information to the editor.

* * *

"Plans for a Junior High Camp have been completed," writes JENNIVIEVE WESTWICK (1745 Lincoln St., Berkeley, Calif.). "A group of from 4 to 8 children will be taken to Lassen National Park by Al and JOANNE STRAIN, Box 982A Albion Ave., Woodside, Calif., members of Palo Alto Meeting. Boys and girls going into the 7th, 8th or 9th grades are eligible. Cost will be \$12 to \$15; dates, July 11 to 17. Al Strain is a teacher and experienced camper and life-saving instructor, with training in first aid. An informal family-style camp should provide many valuable experiences among the volcanic formations and beautiful wooded mountains of Lassen. Applications should be sent to the Strains, giving child's age, grade, camping experience and special interests."

* * *

Born: on March 9, to WALTON and ESTHER JAMES, 8 Glen Acres, Glen's Falls, N. Y., a son named Kenneth James.

Born: on May 9, 1954, to GEORGE and MARJORIE LEAVITT, 1 28A Stadium Terrace, Champaign, Ill., a son named James Douglas Leavitt.

Born: on May 10, 1954, to WARD and ALICE MILES of 537 Old Haverford Lane, Haverford, Pa., a daughter named Prudence Ann Miles.

Born: on February 18, 1954, to MALCOLM and DORIS SMITH, 168 Loralce, Concord, Calif., a son named Wayne Smith.

CONFERENCE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES

(Continued from May)

The first part of the statement issued by the Conference on Civil Liberties, held at Scattergood School, West Branch, Iowa, April 2 to 4, was an outline of the principles of Friends on freedom to search for truth and to express what truth we find.

In the light of these, our ancient Truths, Friends are advised:

1. To reaffirm their faith in the living God whose spirit works in the hearts of all men and to recognize that God works to preserve the rights and liberties of men as He works through them; and also to examine once more the underlying principles of our democracy.
2. Since the fear of controversy often impedes us in the pursuit of truth, Friends are advised to welcome controversy when it arises from differing opinions honestly held. We should aim to develop a corporate witness on freedom which will match the clarity of our other testimonies. Through the creative use of controversy we can discover new truth.
3. Friends are urged to be alert to dangers inherent in censorship, and in conditions which would limit the freedom of teachers to discuss current problems, and in movements which would seek to enforce a narrow orthodoxy of thought and expression.

Since freedom of expression has no meaning unless there is a place where people can express their views, Friends are specifically encouraged to provide facilities for the serious discussion of important, controversial issues in an atmosphere of creative goodwill.

4. The influence of each individual in the local community is of great importance. Monthly Meetings should encourage members to be alert and faithful in their witness to Truth, providing for group action when indicated. Yearly Meetings or national committees on civil liberties, peace or other matters can never succeed unless the ground is prepared in the home communities. It is hoped that Friends' publications and organizations will give special attention to problems of civil liberties during the critical period ahead.

5. Friends should continue their efforts:

To secure equal treatment for all conscientious objectors to military service, whether on religious or other grounds;

To change the law and regulations to provide more favorable treatment for those with conscientious scruples against registration for compulsory military service;

To seek redress in the courts for violation of these rights by government in order to establish more firmly the legal rights of conscience and to curb abuse in the administration of these laws.

Friends generally should support individuals who have suffered loss of their livelihood

THE FRIENDS BULLETIN

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PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING and PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION

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by acting under conscience in resisting conscription, or in opposing loyalty oaths, or for seeking to uphold basic civil and religious liberties.

6. Friends should deal with individuals accused of Communism, or persons rejected by society for other reasons, as human beings. Without embracing false philosophies or condoning any error, Friends should still regard all as children of God. If in prison they should be visited; and where there is need, arrangements made for their families.

7. In the face of increasing pressure toward conformity as exemplified in non-disloyalty oaths, Friends should re-examine their traditional testimony against oaths which test loyalty by words instead of deeds, intensify fear and suspicion, and imply guilt unless innocence is proven, not to mention a double standard of truth. True loyalty and allegiance can be attained only by conviction, not by coercion. In the words of

the Five Years Meetings of Friends in 1945, we affirm "our unchanging conviction that our first allegiance is to God and if this conflicts with any compulsion by the state we serve our country best by remaining true to our higher loyalty."

8. Friends are encouraged to exercise the responsibility of citizenship by examining carefully specific national issues affecting civil liberties and by taking action as appropriate. We view with apprehension: the lack of protection of individual rights in Congressional Committee procedures; the current proposals to permit wire-tapping; the operation of the Federal Loyalty-Security program; the investigation of beliefs and associations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the limitations placed on the issuance of passports and visas with adverse affect, among other things, on the holding of scientific and religious conferences in this country. We encourage support of the International Declaration of Human Rights.

9. In making statements to investigating officers and agencies, Friends should be especially careful for the reputation of others, speaking only the objective facts known to them, and guarding against misquotation by making statements in writing where possible.

10. Finally, Friends are reminded that the loss of civil liberties is an inevitable consequence of the resort to war and violence as a means of security. They have, therefore, an inescapable responsibility to work unceasingly for the elimination of war through the establishment of a just economic and political order, disarmament and the creation of a true world community.

* * *

With a profound sense of humility that we have fallen so far short of the ideal revealed in the light given us, and with a corresponding sense of the responsibility to our fellow men, we call on all Friends to join with us in the pursuit of these goals.

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